

**From:** [Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo](#)  
**To:** [ParkRec Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Apply Today: Summer Camp Scholarships  
**Date:** Friday, January 24, 2025 12:02:37 PM

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Dear Friends,

This summer, the Friends is offering full **scholarships** to Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo summer camps for a select number of applicants who meet income eligibility requirements.

Applications are due Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. Scholarship recipients will be selected at random from qualifying applicants. Submitting an application does not guarantee a spot in a summer camp program. If your child receives a scholarship to camp you will be notified via email by the end of the day, Tuesday, March 4.

For assistance filling out the online form, please contact the JMZ's Community Engagement Specialist, **Leonardo Rischmoller**, at [leonardo.rischmoller@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:leonardo.rischmoller@cityofpaloalto.org).

To learn more about different summer camp programs, visit the [JMZ's website](#).



**Apply Now**



Please share with anyone who could benefit from this offer!



**Support Scholarships**

Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo | 1451 Middlefield Road | Palo Alto, CA 94301 US

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**Constant Contact**



**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [josh@joshalcman.com](mailto:josh@joshalcman.com); [kamhialison@gmail.com](mailto:kamhialison@gmail.com); [Rowena Chiu](#); [Nicole Chiu-Wang](#); [Chris Colohan](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Keith Reckdahl](#); [Templeton, Cari](#); [Cribbs, Anne](#); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Lythcott-Haims, Julie](#); [Council, City](#); [GRP-City Council](#); [Perron, Zachary](#); [citycouncil@mountainview.gov](mailto:citycouncil@mountainview.gov); [jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com](mailto:jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com); [Dave Price](#); [Braden Cartwright](#); [Sean Allen](#); [Raymond Goins](#); [Vara Ramakrishnan](#); [Michelle](#); [Jack Ailuni](#); [Salem Ailuni](#); [Sarah Wright](#); [WILPF Peninsula Palo Alto](#); [Don Austin](#); [Yolanda Conaway](#); [Supervisor Susan Ellenberg](#); [Supervisor Otto Lee](#); [rabrica@cityofepa.org](mailto:rabrica@cityofepa.org); [Cait James](#); [EPA Today](#); [Diana Diamond](#); [Kaloma Smith](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Zelkha, Mila](#); [Veenker, Vicki](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [George for Palo Alto](#); [Palo Alto Free Press](#); [Holman, Karen \(external\)](#); [Tom DuBois](#); [h.etzko@gmail.com](mailto:h.etzko@gmail.com); [Emily Mibach](#); [Daniel Kottke](#); [Damon Silver](#); [Spieckerman, Damian](#); [Burt, Patrick](#); [Patricia.Guerrero@jud.ca.gov](mailto:Patricia.Guerrero@jud.ca.gov); [frances.Rothschild@jud.ca.gov](mailto:frances.Rothschild@jud.ca.gov); [Jeff Conrad](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [Wagner, April](#); [Barberini, Christopher](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Afanasyev, Alex](#); [Lee, Craig](#); [cromero@cityofepa.org](mailto:cromero@cityofepa.org); [Jeff Hayden](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [Jay Boyarsky](#); [Enberg, Nicholas](#); [michael.gennaco@oirgroup.com](mailto:michael.gennaco@oirgroup.com); [Foley, Michael](#); [Lotus Fong](#); [Friends of Cubberley](#); [Freddie.Quintana@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Freddie.Quintana@sen.ca.gov)  
**Subject:** Civil rights organizations have filed a Title VI complaint against a local school district for alleged discrimination against Palestinian students, parents and ...  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 7:04:21 PM

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Civil rights organizations have filed a Title VI complaint against a local school district for alleged discrimination against Palestinian students, parents and ...

Source: San José Spotlight

Santa Clara school district slapped with discrimination complaint - San José Spotlight

<https://search.app/ASyjuu6BzPprmsmr5>

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Shikada, Ed](#); [Council, City](#); [George for Palo Alto](#); [Keith Reckdahl](#); [Blackshire, Geoffrey](#); [Jasso, Tamara](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [Wagner, April](#); [Cribbs, Anne](#); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [h.etzko@gmail.com](#); [Veenker, Vicki](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Barberini, Christopher](#); [Kaloma Smith](#); [Stump, Molly](#); [Dave Price](#); [Emily Mibach](#); [Braden Cartwright](#); [EPA Today](#); [Diana Diamond](#)  
**Subject:** Devastation in Los Angeles casts shadow over Oakland fire station closures  
**Date:** Friday, January 10, 2025 7:54:11 PM

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## Devastation in Los Angeles casts shadow over Oakland fire station closures

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2025/01/10/oakland-fire-stations-closed-wildfire/>

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Lauing, Ed](#); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Emily Mibach](#); [Dave Price](#); [Braden Cartwright](#); [Gerry Gras](#); [Jack Ajluni](#); [Sean Allen](#); [Raymond Goins](#); [Raj Jayadev](#); [Council, City](#); [Bill Newell](#); [josh@joshalsman.com](#); [Kaloma Smith](#); [kamhialison@gmail.com](#); [Keith Reckdahl](#); [George for Palo Alto](#); [Dana St. George](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [Jay Boyarsky](#); [Lotus Fong](#); [Linda Jolley](#); [Jeff Conrad](#); [Jeff Hayden](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [WILPF Peninsula Palo Alto](#); [frances.Rothschild@jud.ca.gov](#); [Patricia.Guerrero@jud.ca.gov](#); [Burt, Patrick](#); [DuJuan Green](#); [jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com](#); [EPA Today](#); [Diana Diamond](#); [cromero@cityofepa.org](#); [Cribbs, Anne](#); [Anna Griffin](#); [Vara Ramakrishnan](#); [Cait James](#); [Marina Lopez](#); [Mickie Winkler](#); [Michelle](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [John Burt](#); [Henry Riggs](#); [Henry Etzkowitz](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [dennis burns](#); [Dustin Altman](#); [Yolanda Conaway](#); [Zelkha, Mila](#); [Rowena Chiu](#); [Enberg, Nicholas](#); [Palo Alto Free Press](#); [Lewis James](#); [Doug Minkler](#); [Holman, Karen \(external\)](#); [Stone, Greer](#)  
**Subject:** From the archives of Avram Finkelstein --the Israeli lobby and more  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2025 3:23:16 PM

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Oct 7, 2024

Hi Tim,

Thanks for your thoughtful letter.

The Jewish Lobby, pro-Israeli lobby, Zionist lobby, if you prefer, usual tactic is to never address the primary substantive issue at hand but instead to deflect by false or conflated claims of anti-Semitism, racism, and hate speech. You'll also notice, with rare exceptions, that the Jewish lobbies never express one iota of sympathy for the Palestinian people or take responsibility for their ongoing genocide/ethnic cleansing/extermination of the Palestinian people. The lobby is intent on focusing on Jewish victimhood even though the Jewish people here and in Israel are among the most privileged of all groups.

The three letters, dated October 4, 2024, responding to my letter of September 27, were true to form. The thrust of my letter, set out in the first paragraph, is my concern that no matter how mild/soft the criticism of Israel is, the lobby is trained to quash the criticism and instead go on the offensive. None of the letters was willing to address the censorship issue I raised as a central theme. The three letters were each classic Ad Hominem attacks on the letter writer.

Israel historian Ilan Pappé addresses the censorship issue in his latest book, *Lobbying for Zionism on both sides of the Atlantic (2024): ... "But the Israeli Lobby insists on being present, in town halls, schools, churches and campuses on both sides of the Atlantic. In 2024, Israel will not allow any show of solidarity with the Palestinians in Britain and the US, even by one person, to escape its radar and will do all it can to push for the dismissal of every person who condemns its ethical violations and the proscription of every organization calling for boycotts, divestment, and sanctions. It will brand these activities as anti-Semitic and tantamount to holocaust denial."*

Regarding your concern that "Jewish Lobby" is a phrase that brushes too widely, here is one writer's perspective on the issue for you to consider. William Safire wrote that in the United Kingdom, "Jewish Lobby" was used as an "even more pejorative" term for the "Israel lobby." citjay He added that supporters of Israel gauge the degree of perceived animus towards Israel by the term chosen to refer to the pro-Israel lobby: "pro-Israel Lobby" being used by those with the mildest opposition, followed by "Israel lobby" with the term "Jewish lobby" being employed by those with the most virulent anti-Israel opinions.

Given my abiding conviction that Israel should be eliminated as a rogue terrorist colonizer state, maybe the term I selected, "Jewish lobby," was the most honest and descriptive of my position on Israel. As a friend of mine, \_\_\_,

*a retired high-tech person, commented: he agrees with your suggestion that I would have been better served by using the Zionist lobby or pro-Israel lobby, but also opined that it would likely not have changed the tone of the three individuals who referred to me as a racist, anti-Semite, hater. My understanding is that the use of the phrase Jewish lobby, Hindu Nationalist lobby, or lobby in most other contexts is NOT to cast an over-wide net of over-inclusiveness of individuals, but just the opposite. A special interest lobby, by definition, is a narrow group of individuals all focused on a similar goal.*

*Okay, I look forward to our next exchange on this topic.*

*Best.*

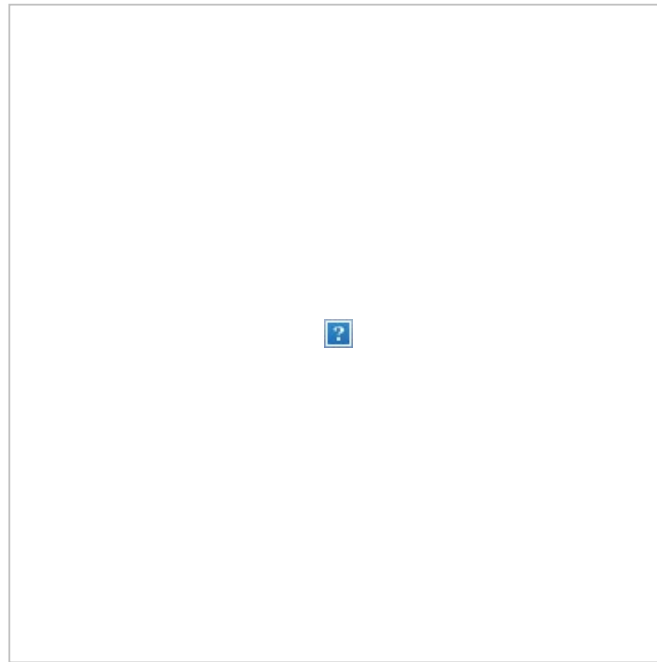
*Avram "Eliminate the state of Israel Now" Finkelstein*

**From:** [Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo](#)  
**To:** [ParkRec Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Happy New Year! Help Us Expand Our Impact in 2025  
**Date:** Monday, December 30, 2024 5:05:28 PM

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Happy Holidays Friends,

This year the Friends celebrated many milestones, including the expansion of the **JMZ's Science Outreach Program** into Redwood City schools, and the launch of the **Animal Encounters Program** at the JMZ.

With so much accomplished this year, we're looking ahead to even more growth in 2025. **As the year comes to a close, we ask that you consider [making a donation](#) to the Friends so that we can continue to support the JMZ in its mission to engage a child's curiosity in science and nature.**





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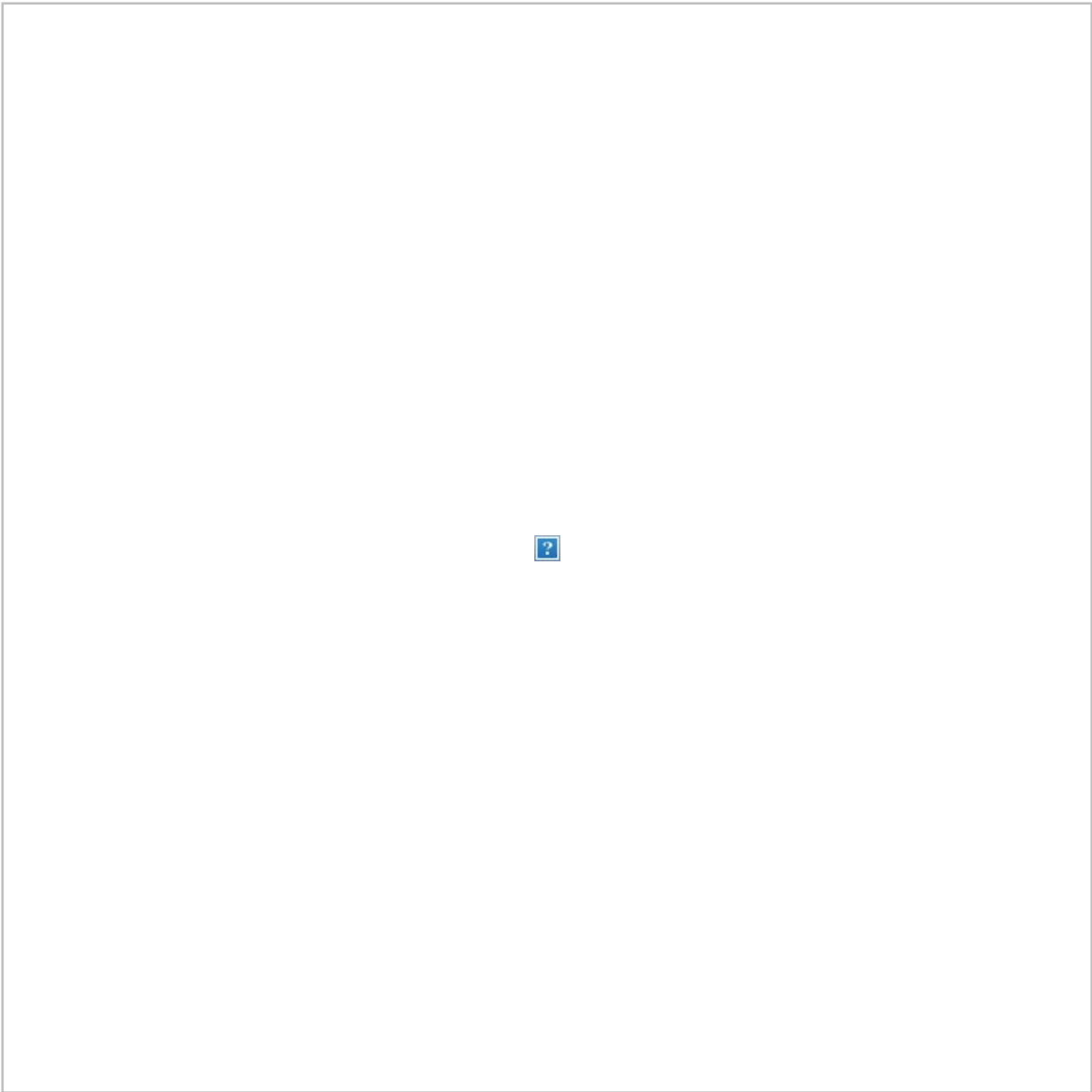


Photo credits (top to bottom): Kat Burton, Scott Nakajima, and Artem Nazarov.

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**Subject:** In Gaza, a moment where death and the ceasefire intersect  
**Date:** Saturday, January 18, 2025 10:06:09 PM

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# In Gaza, a moment where death and the ceasefire intersect

Journalist Hossam Shabat reports on three days of horror in Gaza City

الصحفي حسام شبات

JAN 18 · GUEST POST



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*After 15 months of Israel's genocidal assault on Gaza, nearly 47,000 Palestinians confirmed dead and many thousands more unaccounted for, over 90 percent of the population displaced, and untold levels of destruction, a "ceasefire" deal reached this week is scheduled to go into effect at 8:30am local time on Sunday, according to the spokesperson for Qatar's Foreign Affairs Ministry.*

*Since the deal was announced on Wednesday evening, Israel has escalated its bombing campaign across Gaza, killing — as of Saturday 9am local time — 122 Palestinians, including 33 children, according to the spokesperson for Civil Defense in Gaza. The overwhelming number of dead, 92, were killed in Gaza City.*

*Journalist Hossam Shabat — who has not left northern Gaza since the war began and who has not seen his family in over a year — reports from Gaza City on three*

*days of hope and death, between when the ceasefire was announced and when it is scheduled to be implemented.*

— Sharif Abdel Kouddous

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Palestinian children celebrate the Israeli government's ratification of a "ceasefire" agreement in Bureij refugee camp in Gaza City, Gaza on January 18, 2025. (Photo by Moiz Salhi/Anadolu via Getty Images).

Story by Hossam Shabat

GAZA CITY — In these final hours, where blood is mixed with prayer, civilians in northern Gaza are living the cruelest of moments waiting for the ceasefire to come into effect. Three full days between the announcement of the deal and its implementation. Three days of death as the merciless bombing continues. Time now is measured not in minutes, but in lifetimes of pain and tears. With every passing moment the anxiety and tension of the people here grows, as they wonder whether they will stay alive long enough for the fire to cease.

The occupation intensified its bombing in the first hours after the ceasefire was announced. Fifty airstrikes in less than 24 hours. They targeted shelters, homes, and tents of the displaced. More destruction, more blood. Just minutes after the announcement, the courtyard of Al-Ahli hospital was filled with martyrs. Administrators were forced to set up a makeshift field hospital in the courtyard to handle the flood of wounded coming in.

From the moment the ceasefire agreement was signed, ambulance and Civil Defense crews have been working around the clock. The scenes inside the hospital were very difficult, with more than 70 martyrs arriving in just 24 hours, including more than 20 children. The occupation army did not stop there. They targeted the al-Falah school; they bombed an entire residential block in Jabaliya; they killed families, like the Alloush family, whose bodies have not yet been recovered and still lie under and over the rubble. The children I saw that night appeared happy but they were no longer living, their faces frozen in a mix of smiles and blood.

We bore witness to heart wrenching scenes in these hours of death; families in Al-Ahli hospital bidding bitter farewells to their fallen loved ones. One of the mothers said in a trembling voice: "Oh God, in her final hours, my daughter was so happy with the news of the ceasefire, she was ululating, but her joy was cut short. How can the world be like this?"

These moments are the embodiment of the opposing forces of hope and tragedy, between unfulfilled joy and the sorrow that haunts everything around us.

As the bombs rained down, families did not leave their homes and shelters for fear of being killed in the streets. They chose to disperse family members among

several different places for fear of being all killed together and their bloodlines wiped out, as has happened to so many families in Gaza in this genocide. People were afraid to go outside to forage for their daily supplies.

In the midst of all of this, journalists continued to receive death threats. Hours ago, I received a call from someone speaking Hebrew, warning me to stop filming, which made us afraid to move around during this critical time.

We are living in a moment where death and the ceasefire intersect. The hope for a lasting peace lingers as a dream for millions. Every time the war machine stops, people breathe a sigh of relief, but as time passes, the fear and anxiety return. The peace we yearn for will only come through radical political change, by ensuring the rights of civilians and providing an environment of safety and life. Until then, this time of pain of blood will continue to haunt this devastated landscape and the return to a normal life will remain a distant dream.

*\*Translation by Sharif Abdel Kouddous*

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**From:** [Qucena Yao](#)  
**To:** [ParkRec Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Install at Cubberley Fields  
**Date:** Friday, January 24, 2025 10:40:08 AM

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Hi,

The Palo Alto Girls Softball League is looking to install dugouts and bleachers on a field at Cubberley Fields that currently does not have any. Can you share the expectations and approval process for this work to complete?

Separately, we're looking to put in new storage sheds near each softball field as well. Is approval needed to put in the storage sheds?

Thank you.

Qucena  
630.935.8856

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Keith Reckdahl](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [George for Palo Alto](#)  
**Cc:** [h.etzko@gmail.com](#); [Lythcott-Haims, Julie](#); [Vicki Veenker](#); [jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com](#); [DuJuan Green](#); [Stone, Greer](#); [Dave Price](#); [Braden Cartwright](#); [Emily Mibach](#); [Vara Ramakrishnan](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Templeton, Cari](#); [Cribbs, Anne](#); [Zelkha, Mila](#); [Jeff Conrad](#); [Rowena Chiu](#); [kamhialison@gmail.com](#); [josh@joshsalcman.com](#); [GRP-City Council](#); [Council, City](#); [citycouncil@mountainview.gov](#); [Stump, Molly](#); [dennis burns](#); [Raymond Goins](#); [Sean Allen](#); [Kaloma Smith](#); [Palo Alto Free Press](#); [WILPF Peninsula Palo Alto](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Robert. Jonsen](#); [Baker, Rob](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [Wagner, April](#); [Supervisor Susan Ellenberg](#); [Supervisor Otto Lee](#); [district1@bos.sccgov.org](#); [EPA Today](#); [Diana Diamond](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [Jeff Hayden](#)  
**Subject:** Israel frets as soldiers face growing risk of arrest abroad after serving in Gaza  
**Date:** Monday, January 6, 2025 8:19:24 AM

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Israel frets as soldiers face growing risk of arrest abroad after serving in Gaza

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/israel-soldiers-arrest-abroad-war-crimes-gaza-idf-brazil-rcna186335>

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [josh@joshalcman.com](mailto:josh@joshalcman.com); [kamhialison@gmail.com](mailto:kamhialison@gmail.com); [Rowena Chiu](#); [Nicole Chiu-Wang](#); [Chris Colohan](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Zelkha, Mila](#); [h.etzko@gmail.com](mailto:h.etzko@gmail.com); [Don Austin](#); [Sean Allen](#); [Supervisor Susan Ellenberg](#); [Supervisor Otto Lee](#); [Dave Price](#); [jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com](mailto:jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com); [EPA Today](#); [Diana Diamond](#); [Emily Mibach](#); [Foley, Michael](#); [Sarah Wright](#); [George for Palo Alto](#); [Council, City](#); [Figueroa, Eric](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [Barberini, Christopher](#); [WILPF Peninsula Palo Alto](#); [Friends of Cubberley](#); [Lotus Fong](#); [Linda Jolley](#); [Raymond Goins](#); [Enberg, Nicholas](#); [Kaloma Smith](#); [Wagner, April](#); [frances.Rothschild@jud.ca.gov](mailto:frances.Rothschild@jud.ca.gov); [Burt, Patrick](#); [Bains, Paul](#); [Yolanda Conaway](#); [Templeton, Cari](#); [Cecilia Taylor](#); [Palo Alto Free Press](#); [Perron, Zachary](#); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Keith Reckdahl](#); [dennis burns](#); [DuJuan Green](#); [Freddie.Quintana@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Freddie.Quintana@sen.ca.gov); [Tom DuBois](#); [Holman, Karen \(external\)](#); [Pat M](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Cait James](#); [Marina Lopez](#); [Doria Summa](#); [Salem Ajiluni](#); [Jack Ajiluni](#); [The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan](#)  
**Date:** Friday, January 10, 2025 3:01:31 PM

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Sean Allen  
Vice President/President Elect/Legal Redress Chair  
San Jose/Silicon Valley NAACP  
[205 E. Alma Ave. Suite D-10. San Jose, CA 95112](#)  
January 10, 2025

Dear Members of the Santa Clara Unified School District and Community,

I am writing to express my strong condemnation of the recent actions taken by the Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD) as outlined in the Title VI complaint filed with the U.S. Department of Education. These allegations indicate a concerning pattern of discrimination against Palestinian students, parents, and educators, which creates an untenable and hostile educational environment.

Racist behavior should not be promoted by the public school system. The city of Santa Clara has a troubling history, having been home to several skinhead and hate groups over the past few decades. Despite this dark past, the city now enjoys the prestige of hosting one of the most successful football franchises in the history of the United States, a team that is predominantly composed of men of color. It is profoundly disheartening that educational institutions within this city are sources of racist conduct while the community itself benefits from its rich diversity.

It is deeply troubling to learn that students advocating for their rights and perspectives are facing repression and intimidation. The experiences of students, like those from the Muslim Student Association at Wilcox High School, illustrate a systemic issue where their voices are not only marginalized but actively suppressed. The reported incidents surrounding guest speaker invitations and public expressions of identity portray a school climate that fails to uphold the values of equity, respect, and inclusion.

As the Vice President and Legal Redress Chair of the Silicon Valley NAACP, I stand in solidarity with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and other civil rights organizations in their efforts to address this injustice. The silencing of Palestinian voices and the lack of equitable treatment in school policies is a violation of fundamental civil rights that must be corrected. It is imperative that SCUSD takes immediate and meaningful steps to ensure that all students, regardless of their ethnic or cultural background, have the freedom to express their identities and advocate for their rights without fear of retaliation or exclusion.

The situation described in the complaint reveals a critical need for an equitable vetting process for speakers and educational materials, as well as the establishment of a task force dedicated to addressing anti-Palestinian racism and Islamophobia within the district. The commitment to creating a safe and inclusive educational environment must extend to all students, especially those whose voices have historically been marginalized.

I urge the Santa Clara Unified School District to engage with community leaders, advocates, and the students themselves to foster a culture of understanding and respect. It is essential that the district not only acknowledges these issues but actively works to rectify them, ensuring that the educational environment is one where every student feels welcome and valued.

In closing, I reaffirm the Silicon Valley NAACP's commitment to fighting against discrimination in all its forms and supporting our community in advocating for justice and equality.

Sincerely,

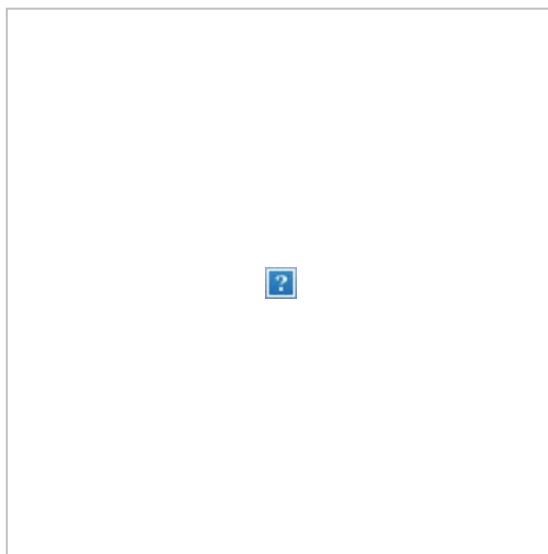
Sean Allen  
Vice President/President Elect/Legal Redress Chair  
San Jose/Silicon Valley NAACP

**From:** [Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo](#)  
**To:** [ParkRec Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Meet Edward, the Skateboarding Tortoise  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 12:35:24 PM

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## **Meet Edward, the Skateboarding Tortoise**

January 14, 2025

Hello Friends,

I hope your 2025 is off to a wonderful start!

Edward the African spurred tortoise has a special place in the hearts of many visitors to the JMZ. With his best friend, Friends Ambassador Lee Harper, by his side, Edward loves to take walks around the JMZ, exploring the zoo and the *California Dinosaur Garden*. This past fall, Lee hatched a plan to teach Edward a new unique skill: skateboarding.

Thanks to the introduction of the **[Friends Animal Encounters Program](#)**, which was made possible by the generosity of our donors, Lee was able to dedicate time to train Edward. Today, Edward zips around the JMZ on his board and even visits children at on-site classes. Lee shares more about Edward and his skateboarding skills in this month's spotlight below.

If you haven't yet had a chance to see Edward in action, I invite you to visit him at the JMZ soon!

Lauren Angelo  
President, Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo



**Edward enjoys using his skateboarding skills to move around the JMZ.  
Photo courtesy of Lee Harper.**

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**Animal Encounters Program Highlight:  
Edward, the Skateboarding Tortoise**  
By Lee Harper

During an All-Staff Meeting I made an offer to the JMZ's Education Department that Edward could come help teach classes as part of the Animal Encounters Program. The teachers jumped at the chance to have Edward involved. The first request caught me by surprise. It required Edward to be at class at 9:30 a.m. Oh dear, I hadn't anticipated such an early start time. Edward thermoregulates and at 9:30 a.m. his circulation and mobility are quite limited until he warms up.

I had just seen a video of a little turtle on a skateboard chasing a cat and he looked like he was having so much fun. Would Edward be willing to try that? How would I

train him?

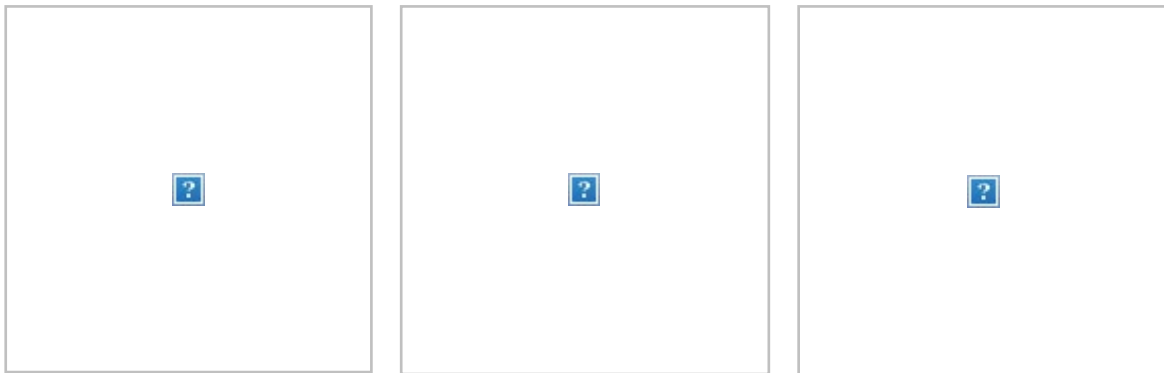
We offered him an old skateboard from the 1970s on the first day. He sort of had the concept, but the wheels were too static to allow him to steer. Our Zoo Director, Sean Ramsdell, found us some swivel wheels and Gene Aikin, from the Exhibits Department, fashioned a larger skateboard to accommodate Edward's size.

By the second day of training on his new skateboard, he was skateboarding down the *California Dinosaur Garden* ramp with a big smile on his face with the confidence and joy of a fellow that had been skateboarding all his life. He loved it! And so began the adventures of Edward the Skateboarding Tortoise.



**Left: Edward explores the zoo on the second day of his skateboard training.  
Right: Edward cruises down the ramp in the *California Dinosaur Garden*.  
Photos courtesy of Lee Harper.**

His early morning classes are a breeze, thanks to the added assistance of Kat Burton, Keeper and Friends Ambassador, who escorts us through doors and the crowds of guests who come along on our journeys.



**Edward joins JMZ Educator Sarah's 9:30 a.m. class at the JMZ.  
Photos courtesy of Kat Burton.**

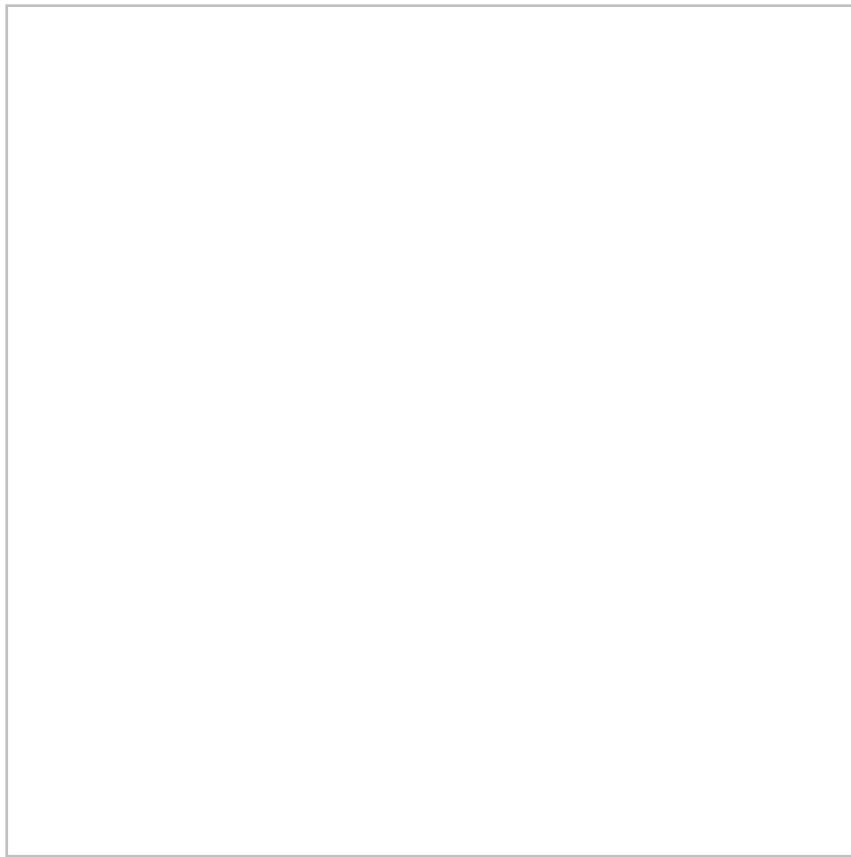


Edward has become a regular fixture during classes at the JMZ. Students are absolutely mesmerized watching him skateboard and walk around the room. Would you have guessed that a giant tortoise could be such a wonderful teacher?

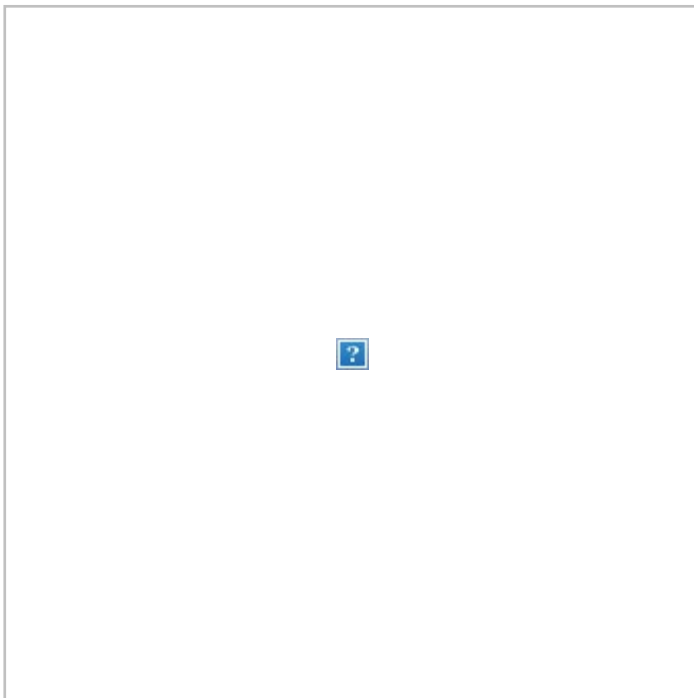


**Edward enjoys a snack as he teaches a class with Lee.**  
**Photos courtesy of Kat Burton.**

Edward also makes appearances on special occasions, such as the Friends' *Halloween at the JMZ* and **Super Family Sundays**, which are free appreciation events for families with children with disabilities.



**Lee and JMZ Volunteer Mason, walk alongside Edward as he skates through the exhibit hall during Super Family Sunday. Photo courtesy of Laurie Phillips.**



**Edward takes a stop in the sand pit (right) and skates through the zoo during *Halloween at the JMZ* (left). Photos courtesy of BQ Creative (right)**

and Miguel Martinez (left).

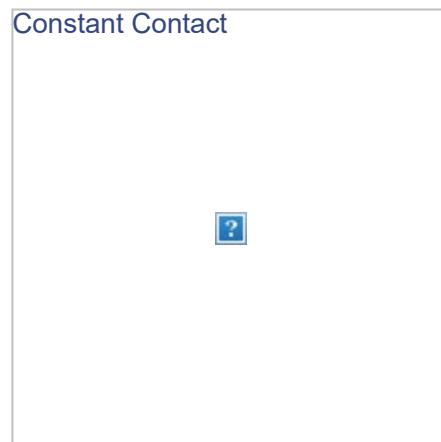
We're so thankful for the generosity of our donors who support the Animal Encounters Program, which allowed Edward to learn how to skateboard. Your contributions further allow us to support the JMZ's mission to engage a child's curiosity in science and nature.

**DONATE NOW**



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US

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**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#); [josh@joshalcman.com](mailto:josh@joshalcman.com); [Ed Lauing](#); [John Burt](#); [board@pausd.org](mailto:board@pausd.org); [board@valleywater.org](mailto:board@valleywater.org); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [Cribbs, Anne](#); [Anna Griffin](#); [editor@paweeekly.com](mailto:editor@paweeekly.com); [BoardOperations](#); [Council, City](#); [GRP-City Council](#); [Kaloma Smith](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [editor@almanacnews.com](mailto:editor@almanacnews.com); [paloaltofresspress.com](mailto:paloaltofresspress.com); [Lauing, Ed](#); [kamhialison@gmail.com](mailto:kamhialison@gmail.com); [Rowena Chiu](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Michelle](#); [cromero@cityofepa.org](mailto:cromero@cityofepa.org); [rabrica@cityofepa.org](mailto:rabrica@cityofepa.org); [Diana Diamond](#); [Doug Minkler](#); [Stump, Molly](#); [Sean Allen](#); [Senator Becker](#); [Zelkha, Mila](#); [<michael.gennaco@oirgroup.com>](mailto:michael.gennaco@oirgroup.com); [Foley, Michael](#); [Mickie Winkler](#); [Marty Wasserman](#); [Linda Jolley](#); [Josh Becker](#); [frances.Rothschild@jud.ca.gov](mailto:frances.Rothschild@jud.ca.gov); [Patricia.Guerrero@jud.ca.gov](mailto:Patricia.Guerrero@jud.ca.gov); [Burt, Patrick](#); [jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com](mailto:jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com); [Nicole Chiu-Wang](#); [Wagner, April](#); [Don Austin](#)  
**Cc:** [Jeff Rosen](#); [Jay Boyarsky](#); [Jeff Hayden](#); [Raymond Goins](#); [Keith Reckdahl](#); [George for Palo Alto](#); [Salem Ajluni](#); [Jax Ajluni](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [Cait James](#); [Marina Lopez](#)  
**Subject:** MIT SHUTS DOWN INTERNAL GRANT DATABASE AFTER IT WAS USED TO RESEARCH SCHOOL'S ISRAEL TIES A new report from MIT Coalition for Palestine details Israeli-funded research into everything from drone swarms to underwater surveillance.  
**Date:** Sunday, January 19, 2025 7:24:59 PM

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Zionists facists at it again. Weaponizing dissent claiming falsely it is antisemitism. AIPAC must go.

<https://theintercept.com/2025/01/16/mit-israel-military-funding-research-gaza/>

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Source: Haaretz.com  
Free All Hostages – Israeli and Palestinian - Opinion - Haaretz.com

[https://search.asp?link=https://34%2F%2Fwww%2Fhaager%2Fecom%2Fopinion%2F2024%2D01%2D12%2Fby%2Ddaniel%2F%2Fpremium%2Ffree%2Doh%2Dhostages%2Ddon%2Dso%2Dides%2F0000194%2D57116%2D49%2D21d%2D766360000&utm\\_campaign=57165%2Dx%2D2Djace%2D2eb%2D4b%2D2Dg%2D2Dsharing&utm\\_source=ind%2Cigads%2Cads%2F%2Fps%2Fm%2F](https://search.asp?link=https://34%2F%2Fwww%2Fhaager%2Fecom%2Fopinion%2F2024%2D01%2D12%2Fby%2Ddaniel%2F%2Fpremium%2Ffree%2Doh%2Dhostages%2Ddon%2Dso%2Dides%2F0000194%2D57116%2D49%2D21d%2D766360000&utm_campaign=57165%2Dx%2D2Djace%2D2eb%2D4b%2D2Dg%2D2Dsharing&utm_source=ind%2Cigads%2Cads%2F%2Fps%2Fm%2F)

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Lauing, Ed](#); [Keith Reckdahl](#)  
**Cc:** [ParkRec Commission](#); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org); [Clerk, City](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Zelkha, Mila](#); [Anna Griffin](#); [Figueroa, Eric](#); [Jensen, Eric](#); [Enberg, Nicholas](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Don Austin](#); [Yolanda trevino](#); [Patricia.Guerrero@jud.ca.gov](mailto:Patricia.Guerrero@jud.ca.gov); [Lee, Craig](#); [cromero@cityofepa.org](mailto:cromero@cityofepa.org); [rabrica@cityofepa.org](mailto:rabrica@cityofepa.org); [Bains, Paul](#); [Freddie.Quintana@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Freddie.Quintana@sen.ca.gov); [frances.Rothschild@jud.ca.gov](mailto:frances.Rothschild@jud.ca.gov); [jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com](mailto:jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com); [Gennady Sheyner](#); [Penni Wilson](#); [Supervisor Susan Ellenberg](#); [Dennis Upton](#); [Daniel Kottke](#); [Damon Silver](#); [Rodriguez, Miquel](#); [Rowena Chiu](#); [Burt, Patrick](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Former mayor Stone "pompous ass" put on a show tonight  
**Date:** Monday, January 6, 2025 11:34:13 PM

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On Mon, Jan 6, 2025 at 10:34 PM Aram James <[abjpd1@gmail.com](mailto:abjpd1@gmail.com)> wrote:  
1/6/2025

Dear Mayor Lauing & and Vice Mayor Veenker:

It seems like no one expects former Mayor Stone to follow the rules set out by city council protocol and likely the Brown Act.

As a general rule, the mayor begins meetings or gives an admonition prior to oral communication regarding alleged hate speech and its interplay with the First Amendment. What is not allowed is for the mayor or other council members to make comments about a public speaker's statements subsequent to the speaker completing his/her comments.

In my business, such childish behavior is called Trial by Ambush and is impermissible.

At a minimum, it would be a good practice to call out a mayor or council member who violates the council's own rules. Failure to do so shows the utmost disrespect to the community and the rule of law.

If allowed, I would have rebutted Stone's outrageous claim that tonight or any other night, I have engaged in hate speech or anti-Semitic speech. I would challenge Stone to offer even one example of me engaging in hate speech or anti-Semitic speech.

I would concede that I am a -strong as I can be- advocate against the ongoing ethnic cleansing, genocide, starvation tactics, journalist assassinations, medical provider murders, kidnaps, and other atrocities being carried out by the Israeli government, IDO-Israeli Occupying Forces, with full U.S. support, daily. Calling out a mayor or other city leaders who are silent and thus complicit in the genocide is not only NOT hate speech or anti-Semitic but is rather and in fact required of any righteous Jew. This Jew, great-grandson of Abraham-Avram Finkelstein and grandson of Antoinette Tonie Olive Birnbaum, refuses to be silent in the face of the Nazi-like state of Israel.

Avram Finkelstein

P.S. Aram James is really a fake name.

My dad, an oppositional Jew for sure, was born Daniel Ben Ezra Fink —and changed his name to Steven Daniel James shortly before my birth. He claimed, with his irreverent sense of humor -once he changed his name-to be the President and Founder of Jews for antisemitism. Dad grew up in Minneapolis -a very anti-semitic city in his youth. Used to be chased home being called a Christ Killer. Dad spent two years at Carleton in Minneapolis before enlisting in the army air corp. Post the war he attended the U of Illinois where he obtained a masters degree in in English, later a second masters degree at lowly Stanford.

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Ed Lauing](#); [Council, City](#); [board@pausd.org](#); [John Burt](#); [board@valleywater.org](#); [BoardOperations](#); [Vara Ramakrishnan](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [WILPF Peninsula Palo Alto](#); [Dave Price](#); [Braden Cartwright](#); [Emily Mibach](#); [Palo Alto Free Press](#); [Burt, Patrick](#); [Raymond Goins](#); [Sean Allen](#); [Senator Becker](#); [Bill Newell](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [Cait James](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Free Palestine!  
**Date:** Monday, January 20, 2025 5:42:43 PM

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On Mon, Jan 20, 2025 at 11:11 AM Marie Yared - Avaaz <[avaaz@avaaz.org](mailto:avaaz@avaaz.org)> wrote:



Sign now





Finally – after 15 months of devastation, a ceasefire has been declared for Gaza! But the suffering, the occupation, and the fight for freedom continue. **This moment is our chance to push key countries to recognise Palestine as a State** – bringing the possibility of justice, dignity, and lasting peace. Sign now to make it happen. Sign now to free Palestine!

**SIGN NOW**



Dear friends,

The ceasefire in Gaza gives us something we've longed for: hope. **But it doesn't erase the devastation. It doesn't end the occupation.** It doesn't bring the freedom millions of Palestinians desperately need.

This moment, when the sky over Gaza finally turns quiet, is our chance to push for a lasting solution: the UK, France, and Japan could **recognise Palestine as a State – a vital step toward peace and justice.** But they're hesitating under huge pressure from Israel.

Let's urge them to stand on the right side of history and speak up for real peace. More than ever, your voice can make the difference.

[Freedom for Palestinians starts here - add your name now](#)

Recognising Palestine means standing against decades of displacement, oppression, and violence. It's a step toward dismantling illegal settlements, ending the occupation, and giving Palestinians the dignity and security they deserve.

**Sign now to join the world's largest campaign for Palestinian recognition.** Let's push world leaders to take action for lasting peace.

[Freedom for Palestinians starts here - add your name now](#)

Recognition alone won't erase the pain or fix the conflict overnight, but it changes the game. It brings the possibility of justice, a fair peace process, and **hope for a future where Palestinians can live in freedom** – something generations have never known.

We're 1.7 million strong. Together, we can make this a turning point in history.

With hope and determination,

Marie, Julian, John, Chris, Mo, Ruth, Liliana and the entire Avaaz team

---

#### **More information:**

- [Hamas frees hostages, Israel releases Palestinian prisoners on day one of ceasefire](#) (Reuters)
- [Ireland, Norway, and Spain to recognise Palestinian state](#) (BBC)
- [State Department reviewing options for possible recognition of Palestinian state](#) (Axios)
- [The impact of recognising a Palestinian state](#) (BBC)

**Avaaz is a 70-million-person global campaign network** that works to ensure that the views and values of the world's people shape global decision-making. ("Avaaz" means "voice" or "song" in many languages.) Avaaz members live in every nation of the world; our team is spread across 18 countries on 6 continents and operates in 22 languages. Learn about some of Avaaz's biggest campaigns [here](#), or follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#), or

Instagram.

You became a member of the Avaaz movement and started receiving these emails when you signed "Stop the rape epidemic " on 2014-06-05 using the email address [abjpd1@gmail.com](mailto:abjpd1@gmail.com).

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[27 Union Square West](#)  
[Suite 500](#)  
[New York, NY 10003](#)



**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [gstone22@gmail.com](#); [h.etzko@gmail.com](#); [Burt, Patrick](#); [Gennady Sheyner](#); [Sarah Wright](#); [editor@paweeekly.com](#); [Dave Price](#); [Emily Mibach](#); [Sean Allen](#); [Raymond Goins](#); [EPA Today](#); [Diana Diamond](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [kamhialison@gmail.com](#); [josh@joshslcman.com](#); [Josh Becker](#); [Rowena Chiu](#); [Nicole Chiu-Wang](#); [Don Austin](#); [Yolanda Conaway](#); [Jeff Conrad](#); [Cait James](#); [Marina Lopez](#); [Tim James](#); [Templeton, Cari](#); [Cribbs, Anne](#); [Doug Minkler](#); [Zelkha, Mila](#); [Jack Ajluni](#); [Michelle](#); [Supervisor Susan Ellenberg](#); [Supervisor Otto Lee](#); [district1@bos.sccgov.org](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [Jay Boyarsky](#); [jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com](#); [Damon Silver](#); [dennis burns](#); [Dennis Upton](#); [Palo Alto Free Press](#); [Keith Reckdahl](#); [George for Palo Alto](#); [<michael.gennaco@oigroup.com>](#); [Foley, Michael](#); [WILPF Peninsula Palo Alto](#); [Lotus Fong](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Linda Jolley](#); [Van Der Zwaag, Minka](#); [Perron, Zachary](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [Lewis James](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [Wagner, April](#); [Enberg, Nicholas](#); [Barberini, Christopher](#); [Afanasyev, Alex](#); [DuJuan Green](#); [Tom DuBois](#); [Holman, Karen \(external\)](#); [Lee, Craig](#); [cromero@cityofepa.org](#); [Vara Ramakrishnan](#); [rabrica@cityofepa.org](#); [Raj Jayadev](#); [Figueroa, Eric](#); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Stump, Molly](#); [Baker, Rob](#)  
**Subject:** Re: hate speech/apology  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 2:46:31 PM

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On Tue, Jan 14, 2025 at 1:58 PM Nat Fisher <[sukiroo@hotmail.com](mailto:sukiroo@hotmail.com)> wrote:

**Aram James is not anti-Semitic. He is Jewish. He is anti the Israeli government; he is anti-Zionist.**

**There is a difference. Many Jews are anti-Zionist. I am one of them. What Israel is doing in Gaza is like the Holocaust. Israel has always treated Palestinians horribly. The Council member's apology is unnecessary. She was correct in the first place.**

**Natalie**

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not surprised.

Gerry

On 1/21/25 13:57, Aram James wrote:

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### Israeli leaders suggest the operation was plotted during a backroom deal made during Gaza ceasefire vote




READ IN APP

*Less than 24 hours after President Donald Trump was inaugurated, Israeli forces launched what they say is a major operation in the occupied West Bank, including a large scale invasion of Jenin. Israeli ministers have suggested the military operations are part of a deal Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made with his cabinet to convince them to agree to the "ceasefire" in Gaza.*

*Trump's nominated national security team and Israeli officials have been portraying the Gaza deal as one which Israel is not planning to respect. While Trump has been celebrating his undeniable role in forcing through an agreement, he has also indicated he does not believe the deal will hold. Last night, he made a series of statements on Gaza, saying "That's not our war, it's their war. But I'm not confident," adding that Gaza was a "phenomenal location on the sea" and that "some beautiful things could be done with it."*

*While 90 Palestinian captives were released in Ramallah on Sunday as part of the exchange deal for three Israelis held in Gaza, over 90 Palestinians have now been detained in the West Bank over the past 24 hours alone. Meanwhile, violence from Israeli soldiers and settlers has ramped up across the West Bank since Sunday. Reporting from the West Bank, journalist Mariam Barghouti speaks to residents inside Jenin as the Israeli raid is underway.*

*For months we have been covering the increasingly incendiary situation in the West Bank and we will continue to report on it as events unfold. We rely on donations to sustain our reporting. Please consider becoming a paid subscriber.*

— Sharif Abdel Kouddous, journalist and editor

Israeli military vehicles in the Jenin refugee camp as part of a large scale military operation in Jenin on January 21, 2025. (Photo by Nedal Eshtayah/Anadolu via Getty Images)

Israel launched a major military operation on Jenin in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday, raiding the city with troops, military vehicles, and bulldozers backed by airstrikes, drones, and Apache helicopters. At least nine Palestinians have been killed and more than 40 wounded in the ongoing operation, according to the Ramallah-based Palestinian health ministry, which Israel has dubbed "Operation Iron Wall."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the goal of the "large scale and significant military operation" was to "to eradicate terrorism in Jenin."

"We are acting systematically and decisively against the Iranian axis wherever it extends its reach – whether in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, or Judea and Samaria – and our efforts will continue," Netanyahu wrote in a post on X, using the name by which Israel refers to the occupied West Bank.

Israeli soldiers stormed the city from the Jamaleh military checkpoint on Tuesday afternoon after a special unit had infiltrated the area, according to local journalists in Jenin. "At around 1:00 p.m. there were Israeli special forces near our home west of the camp, and there was heavy gunfire in the area," Susan Mahajneh, 35-year-old resident of the camp, told Dray Site News.

"I got the kids ready and we began making our way outside the camp in light of the increasing danger with live ammunition being fired while Apache helicopters hovered above," Majahadeh said. "I carried my kids in my arms as they cried from fear, and kept walking towards Ibn Sina hospital in search of some safety and refuge." Majahadeh is now seeking shelter with a relative who lives outside the camp.

"It was incredibly difficult to escape as Israeli forces shot in our direction to force us back into the house," she said, "but I refused and insisted we leave so I can protect my kids from what's to come."

According to residents in the camp, the Israeli army invaded while Palestinian

Authority security forces —commonly derided as a “subcontractor” to the Israeli occupation— were stationed inside the camp with their armored vehicles. The PA troops did not fire back at the Israeli army and instead immediately withdrew from the camp. “We withdrew from Jenin refugee camp to avoid direct confrontation with the Israeli army,” PA security forces spokesperson Brigadier General Anwar Rajab said in a statement.

According to eyewitnesses and civilians inside the camp, Israeli forces have laid siege to the Jenin refugee camp and snipers are targeting anyone who tries to leave. “People tried to escape from the camp amid the ongoing Israeli invasion, but only some were able to get out. Others remain stuck at the edges of the camp unable to leave,” Ahmad, a 26-year-old resident of the camp, told Drop Site on condition of anonymity.

As he spoke, the sound of explosions and gunfire echoed in the background. “They just targeted in the area we were in with an airstrike,” he said. According to Ahmad, the second airstrike in the span of three hours targeted an area where ambulances were stationed in the camp. Israeli military bulldozers also tore up and destroyed a number of streets in the city.

Among those killed by Israeli forces on Tuesday was a civilian named Abed Alwahab Saadi. In footage [posted online](#), he can be seen walking unarmed along an empty road as he suddenly comes under fire and begins to run before being shot and falling face down in the ground. Another shocking [video](#) shows a family repeatedly being targeted by gunfire while driving in their car, reportedly killing another civilian, Ahmed Nimer Obeidi.

Medics also came under attack, with at least three doctors and two nurses injured by Israeli gunfire within the first two hours of the invasion. Israeli forces also besieged Al-Amal hospital near the camp and fired live ammunition from its vicinity while obstructing medics from reaching the injured. At the same time, residents described Israeli troops forcibly taking over civilian homes across the city and turning them into makeshift military positions.

By 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, the Israeli military had designated the entire district of Jenin as a closed military zone, with active operations in at least 16 surrounding towns and villages.

Tuesday’s operation came just two days after the start of the “ceasefire” in Gaza, whose first phase is supposed to last for six weeks. Israeli ministers and media reports have suggested the military operations in Jenin and other areas of the West Bank are part of a deal Netanyahu made with his cabinet ahead of the ceasefire in Gaza.

On Tuesday, Israeli finance minister Bezalel Smotrich said Israel’s raid on Jenin is designed to “change the security situation” in the West Bank. “After Gaza and Lebanon, today, with God’s help, we have begun changing the security paradigm in Judea and Samaria as well, and [initiated] a campaign to eradicate terrorism in the region,” Smotrich said in a [post on X](#). These operations, he added, were “part of the war goals that were added by the [security] cabinet on Friday, at the request of the Religious Zionism party,” referring to the cabinet talks over the ceasefire in Gaza last weekend. He also described Operation Iron Wall as part of a strategy to protect settlers.

In an interview on Israeli TV Channel 14, Smotrich elaborated further, saying the current raids on the West Bank would be “a completely different [kind] of operation.”

“It’s not longer about foiling [attacks], it’s no longer routine ongoing security maintenance — it’s a war aim, and when you are in war, you have a different set of tools [at your disposal],” Smotrich said. “There’s a very detailed decision that tasks the security apparatus to, call it ‘spread a blanket over,’ but in terms of defense and offense, you’ll see very shortly, god willing, very significant operations in the refugee camps,” he added.

The Jenin refugee camp has long been a stronghold of Palestinian armed resistance in the West Bank. It is home to the Jenin Brigade, a politically diverse militant group of mostly third-generation refugees who believe taking up arms is key to liberating Palestinian lands from Israeli occupation and annexation.

The Israeli military operation comes just days after the Palestinian Authority concluded a [weeks-long raid](#) on Jenin in one the longest and most lethal assaults by Palestinian security forces in recent memory, with at least 16 Palestinians killed, mostly civilians. Billed by the PA as a move to restore security in Jenin, residents said the real aim was to crush Palestinian armed resistance at the behest of Israel.

The Israeli military operation on Jenin comes amid a broader assault on Palestinian villages and towns across the West Bank. On the day the Gaza “ceasefire” went into effect, Israeli security forces raided several towns in the West Bank, closed down checkpoints, and set up “flying”—or new—checkpoints in other areas, while shutting down entrances to major cities, including Ramallah and al-Khalil (Hebron). Due to the Israeli lockdown, many of the 90 Palestinian captives who were released on Sunday in Ramallah were unable to return to their homes in the various towns and cities in the West Bank.

On Monday, the Israeli military raided the town of Azzun in eastern Qalqilya, arresting 64 Palestinians, including children. Footage posted online shows men and boys forced to lie face down in the street before being marched away in a long line. Over 90 Palestinians have been detained in the West Bank in the past 24 hours.

Israeli settlers have also attacked a number of towns and villages, torching Palestinians houses and vehicles, blocking roads and throwing stones. In Sebastia, Nablus, Israeli forces shot and killed a 14-year-old Palestinian boy.

In a statement on Monday, the UN Human Rights Office said it was “alarmed by a wave of renewed violence perpetrated by settlers and Israeli security forces in the Occupied West Bank, coinciding with the implementation of the Gaza ceasefire agreement and the release of hostages and detainees. This has been accompanied by increased restrictions on Palestinians’ freedom of movement across the West Bank, including complete closure of some checkpoints and installation of new gates, effectively confining entire communities.”

On Tuesday, Hamas issued a statement calling on people to “mobilize and intensify confrontations” with Israeli forces in Jenin and blasting PA security forces for their conduct. “It is bewildering to witness the conduct of the Palestinian Authority’s forces, which withdrew from the surroundings of the Jenin camp simultaneously with the beginning of the occupation’s military operation,” the statement read. “This comes after a siege of over 48 days on the camp and the disruption of agreements with the resistance fighters to date, as well as their refusal to heed national calls to halt dangerous measures against the strugglers and resistance fighters.”

Meanwhile in Washington, U.S. President Donald Trump reversed sanctions on a number of Israeli settlers in the West Bank, issuing an executive order soon after his inauguration to lift measures imposed by the Biden administration.

Trump also said he was not confident the Gaza ceasefire deal would hold. “That’s not our war, it’s their war. But I’m not confident,” he said from the Oval Office. “I looked at a picture of Gaza — Gaza is like a massive demolition site. That place is, it’s really, it’s got to be rebuilt in a different way,” he said, adding that Gaza was a

"phenomenal location on the sea" and that "some beautiful things could be done with it."



A guest post by  
Mariam Barghouti  
Mariam Barghouti is a writer and a journalist based in the West Bank. She is a member of the Marie Colvin Journalist Network.



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**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Blackshire, Geoffrey](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [h.etzko@gmail.com](mailto:h.etzko@gmail.com); [Gerry Gras](#); [Sarah Wright](#); [Gennady Sheyner](#); [Dave Price](#); [Council, City](#); [Lythcott-Haims, Julie](#); [Lewis james](#); [Yolanda Conaway](#); [Don Austin](#); [josh@joshsalcman.com](mailto:josh@joshsalcman.com); [kamhialison@gmail.com](mailto:kamhialison@gmail.com); [Rowena Chiu](#); [Henry Etzkowitz](#); [Jasso, Tamara](#); [Marty Wasserman](#); [Emily Mibach](#); [Zelkha, Mila](#); [Josh Becker](#); [EPA Today](#); [Jay Boyarsky](#); [Sean Allen](#); [Raymond Goins](#); [jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com](mailto:jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com); [Dave Price](#); [Braden Cartwright](#); [Nicole Chiu-Wang](#); [dennis burns](#); [Tom DuBois](#); [Holman, Karen \(external\)](#); [Vara Ramakrishnan](#); [Templeton, Cari](#); [Cribbs, Anne](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [Wagner, April](#); [Afanasyev, Alex](#); [Enberg, Nicholas](#); [Bill Newell](#); [GRP-City Council](#); [citycouncil@mountainview.gov](mailto:citycouncil@mountainview.gov); [BoardOperations](#); [board@valleywater.org](mailto:board@valleywater.org); [WILPF Peninsula Palo Alto](#); [Mickie Winkler](#); [John Burt](#); [Gardener, Liz](#); [Daniel Kottke](#); [Dana St. George](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org); [ParkRec Commission](#); [cromero@cityofepa.org](mailto:cromero@cityofepa.org); [rabrica@cityofepa.org](mailto:rabrica@cityofepa.org)  
**Subject:** Re: Meet the Palisades resident who defied evacuation orders and saved his home | ABS-CBN News  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2025 4:40:11 PM

---

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1/17/2025

Mayor Lauing & City Manager Shikada ( Fire Chief Blackshire)

Our city leaders need to address our readiness for an LA like firestorm ASAP. Many residents of our city feel the same way as I do. Please reduce the anxiety of many by addressing this issue at this week's city council meeting.

Sincerely,

Aram James

On Fri, Jan 17, 2025 at 4:23 PM Aram James <[abjpd1@gmail.com](mailto:abjpd1@gmail.com)> wrote:

Meet the Palisades resident who defied evacuation orders and saved his home | ABS-CBN News

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCSp5e4HGRO>



**From:** [Tom Haxton](#)  
**To:** [ParkRec Commission](#); [b.amandaro@gmail.com](mailto:b.amandaro@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Re: Proposal to Meet and Discuss Outsourcing Middle School Athletics  
**Date:** Monday, January 20, 2025 11:15:52 AM

---

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---

+Commissioner Brown in case this helps you see this email that I sent to you and Commissioners Cribbs and Dang via the Commission email address. Thanks!

On Sun, Dec 29, 2024 at 11:31 AM Tom Haxton <[tom.haxton@gmail.com](mailto:tom.haxton@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Commissioners Brown, Cribbs, and Dang,

Thank you for serving on the ad-hoc committee to evaluate outsourcing middle school athletics to local nonprofits. Following up on my public comment at the 12/18 commission meeting, I would appreciate the opportunity to share more about our nonprofit's efforts to improve middle school athletics in Palo Alto.

As head coach for JLS Cross Country and Track and Field in 2023-2024 under the City of Palo Alto's program, I found the city's financing and support for our team to be inadequate, which aligns with feedback from other coaches and families across sports and schools. The primary issue has been that the majority of registration fees are spent compensating city staff who do not directly support the teams, leaving insufficient funding for coaching and other essential resources.

This fall, our nonprofit, the Palo Alto Middle School Athletics Community Organization, demonstrated a more effective approach by operating a cross country team for JLS Middle School. We were able to improve equity by reducing registration fees from the city's rate of \$335 to \$200, and we were able to improve the student experience by investing almost all of our registration fees on the team, including recruiting a full staff of highly qualified coaches, leading to a successful season that garnered positive feedback from students and parents.

Our approach also demonstrated strong support from families and the city council. Despite limitations in advertising our registration process and the risk that our team would not be allowed to participate in our usual schedule of competitions, 62 students joined our team, more than the city-run program last year. This support helped secure the unanimous vote from the city council to evaluate outsourcing middle school athletics to local nonprofits.

Our approach is also validated by the other school districts in the league, all or almost all of whom partner with local nonprofits to operate their middle school athletics programs:

- The San Mateo-Foster City school district program (5 schools) is run by the San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation.
- The San Carlos school district program (2 schools) is run by Legarza Sports.
- Cunha's program (1 school) is run by the Boys and Girls Club of the Coastsides.
- La Entrada's program (1 school) is run by the Las Lomas League.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our initiative further, answer any questions, and learn more about your evaluation process. If you are open to scheduling a meeting, would you please provide your contact information or let me know the best way to coordinate a meeting?

Thank you!

Tom

**From:** [Howard, Adam](#)  
**To:** [ParkRec Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Castile, Steve](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Proposal to Meet and Discuss Outsourcing Middle School Athletics  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 22, 2025 8:04:08 AM  
**Attachments:** [image008.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)  
[image014.png](#)  
[image015.png](#)  
[image016.png](#)  
[image018.png](#)  
[image019.png](#)  
[image020.png](#)  
[image021.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Good Morning,

The Adhoc is meeting next Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup>, at that meeting we can discuss how to start gathering feedback and how this conversation can proceed.

Thank you

## Adam Howard

Sr. Community Services Manager, Recreation

City of Palo Alto

Phone: 650-329-2192

E-mail: [adam.howard@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:adam.howard@cityofpaloalto.org)

[www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)



*Please think of the environment before printing this email – Thank you!*



---

**From:** ParkRec Commission <[parkrec.commission@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:parkrec.commission@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2025 6:22 PM  
**To:** Howard, Adam <[Adam.Howard@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Adam.Howard@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Castile, Steve <[Steve.Castile@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Steve.Castile@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Proposal to Meet and Discuss Outsourcing Middle School Athletics

Hi Adam,

I will be sending this out to the Commissioners. Please let us know if you have met with the Ad Hoc.

Sarah



**SARAH ROBUSTELLI**

Division Manager Open Space, Parks, and Golf

Community Services Department

(650) 617-3518 | [Sarah.Robustelli@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Sarah.Robustelli@CityofPaloAlto.org)

[www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)



Please click here to provide feedback on our City's services

---

**From:** Tom Haxton <[tom.haxton@gmail.com](mailto:tom.haxton@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, December 29, 2024 11:32 AM

**To:** ParkRec Commission <[parkrec.commission@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:parkrec.commission@CityofPaloAlto.org)>

**Subject:** Proposal to Meet and Discuss Outsourcing Middle School Athletics

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Dear Commissioners Brown, Cribbs, and Dang,

Thank you for serving on the ad-hoc committee to evaluate outsourcing middle school athletics to local nonprofits. Following up on my public comment at the 12/18 commission meeting, I would appreciate the opportunity to share more about our nonprofit's efforts to improve middle school athletics in Palo Alto.

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- The San Carlos school district program (2 schools) is run by Legarza Sports.
- Cunha's program (1 school) is run by the Boys and Girls Club of the Coastsides.
- La Entrada's program (1 school) is run by the Las Lomitas League.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our initiative further, answer any questions, and learn more about your evaluation process. If you are open to scheduling a meeting, would you please provide your contact information or let me know the best way to coordinate a meeting?

Thank you!  
Tom

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Sean Allen](#); [Rose Lynn](#); [Raymond Goins](#); [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#); [Palo Alto Free Press](#); [WILPF Peninsula Palo Alto](#); [Sarah Wright](#); [h.etzko@gmail.com](#); [EPA Today](#); [Kaloma Smith](#); [jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com](#); [Vara Ramakrishnan](#); [josh@joshalcman.com](#); [kamhialison@gmail.com](#); [bos@smcgov.org](#); [Bill Newell](#); [board@pausd.org](#); [Diana Diamond](#); [Nicole Chiu-Wang](#); [Freddie.Quintana@sen.ca.gov](#); [frances.Rothschild@jud.ca.gov](#); [Cait James](#); [Mickie Winkler](#); [Jeff Hayden](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [Jeff Conrad](#); [Daniel Kottke](#); [Lotus Fong](#); [Friends of Cubberley](#); [editor@paweeekly.com](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Burt, Patrick](#); [Wagner, April](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Council, City](#); [GRP-City Council](#); [Marty Wasserman](#); [Jay Boyarsky](#); [Foley, Michael](#); [Barberini, Christopher](#); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](#); [ParkRec Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Rev. Al Sharpton Announces Boycott Against Companies Ending DEI Practices  
**Date:** Thursday, January 23, 2025 6:24:10 PM

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Rev. Al Sharpton Announces Boycott Against Companies Ending DEI Practices  
Source: BIN: Black Information Network

<https://share.newsbreak.com/b2nhxqt6?s=i0>

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Barberini, Christopher](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [Cribbs, Anne](#); [Templeton, Cari](#); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [h.etzko@gmail.com](#); [DuJuan Green](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [WILPF Peninsula Palo Alto](#); [Council, City](#); [bos@smcgov.org](#); [board@pausd.org](#); [board@valleywater.org](#); [BoardOperations](#); [Marty Wasserman](#); [Michelle](#); [<michael.gennaco@oirgroup.com>](#); [Mickie Winkler](#)  
**Subject:** San Jose K-9 failed 22 times to respond to commands before latching onto man's throat: court | KTVU FOX 2  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 21, 2025 11:46:12 AM

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San Jose K-9 failed 22 times to respond to commands before latching onto man's throat: court | KTVU FOX 2

<https://www.ktvu.com/news/san-jose-k-9-failed-22-times-respond-commands-before-latching-onto-mans-throat-court>

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Sean Allen](#); [Rose Lynn](#); [Raymond Goins](#); [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#); [Veenker, Vicki](#); [<michael.gennaco@oigroup.com>](mailto:michael.gennaco@oigroup.com); [Binder, Andrew](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [Wagner, April](#); [Robert. Jonsen](#); [Sheriff Transparency](#); [Vara Ramakrishnan](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Stump, Molly](#); [Kaloma Smith](#); [WILPF Peninsula Palo Alto](#); [josh@joshsalcman.com](mailto:josh@joshsalcman.com); [kamhialison@gmail.com](mailto:kamhialison@gmail.com); [Rowena Chiu](#); [Nicole Chiu-Wang](#); [dennis burns](#); [DuJuan Green](#); [Bill Newell](#); [Supervisor Otto Lee](#); [Supervisor Susan Ellenberg](#); [Foley, Michael](#); [Braden Cartwright](#); [Emily Mibach](#); [EPA Today](#); [jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com](mailto:jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com); [Diana Diamond](#); [Palo Alto Free Press](#)  
**Subject:** Santa Clara County jail deaths highest in two decades  
**Date:** Saturday, January 11, 2025 8:16:59 AM

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## Santa Clara County jail deaths highest in two decades

<https://sanjosespotlight.com/santa-clara-county-jail-deaths-highest-in-two-decades/>



**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [josh@joshalcman.com](#); [kamhialison@gmail.com](#); [Rowena Chiu](#); [Nicole Chiu-Wang](#); [Chris Colohan](#); [h.etzko@gmail.com](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Keith Reckdahl](#); [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#); [Sean Allen](#); [Raymond Goins](#); [Jeff Hayden](#); [Jeff Conrad](#); [Rosen, Jeff](#); [Cait James](#); [Marina Lopez](#); [Templeton, Cari](#); [Cribbs, Anne](#); [Anna Griffin](#); [Stump, Molly](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Donette Gamblin](#); [Yolanda Conaway](#); [Sarah Wright](#); [Gennady Shevner](#); [Council, City](#); [GRP-City Council](#); [Supervisor Susan Ellenberg](#); [Supervisor Otto Lee](#); [district1@bos.sccgov.org](#); [Jessica Speiser](#); [WILPF Peninsula Palo Alto](#); [Lotus Fong](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Jay Boyarsky](#); [Baker, Rob](#); [Tim James](#); [Kaloma Smith](#); [Patricia.Guerrero@jud.ca.gov](#); [Burt, Patrick](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [George for Palo Alto](#); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Linda Jolley](#); [Freddie.Quintana@sen.ca.gov](#); [frances.Rothschild@jud.ca.gov](#); [Dave Price](#); [Braden Cartwright](#); [Emily Mibach](#); [EPA Today](#); [Diana Diamond](#); [jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com](#); [Jennifer Morrow San José Spotlight](#); [San José Spotlight](#); [dennis burns](#); [Bill Newell](#)  
**Subject:** Santa Clara school district slapped with discrimination complaint  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 6:11:41 PM

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## Santa Clara school district slapped with discrimination complaint

Santa Clara school district slapped with discrimination complaint  
Source: San José Spotlight

<https://share.newsbreak.com/asm46ol3?s=i0>

**From:** [Office of Supervisor Otto Lee](#)  
**To:** [ParkRec Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Save The Date March 14th - Special Invitation State Of The County Address - El Estado del Condado - Bài Phát Biểu của Quận Hạt - 縣情報告會  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2025 6:28:08 PM

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## *Save The Date - State Of The County Address 2025 - March 14th*

*Dear Friends & Neighbors -*

### **Special Invitation**

County of Santa Clara Board President Otto Lee will deliver the 2025 State Of The County Address on Friday, March 14, 2025 beginning at 5:30 PM at Board Chambers, County Government Center, 70 West Hedding Street, San José, CA 95110.

Please join us for this special event. Address will be livestreamed online. Follow link for more information. [[LINK](#)] Thank you!

**State Of The County 2025 - Click  
HERE - LINK**

**Invitación especial de Otto Lee, Presidente de la Junta de Supervisores del Condado de Santa Clara, para asistir al informe anual sobre el Estado del Condado.**

Otto Lee, Presidente de la Junta de Supervisores, presentará el informe anual sobre el Estado del Condado de Santa Clara el viernes 14 de marzo de 2025. El discurso comenzará a las 5:30 pm en la cámara de supervisores ubicada en el 70 West Hedding Street, San José, CA 95110.

Por favor, acompáñenos a este evento especial. El discurso también será transmitido en directo en línea. Para más información presione este [\[ENLACE\]](#) ¡Gracias!

**Thiệp Mời đặc biệt để tham dự Buổi Phát Biểu của Quận Hạt 2025 do Chủ Tịch Hội Đồng Quản Trị Otto Lee**

Chủ Tịch Hội Đồng Quản Trị Quận Hạt Otto Lee Phát Biểu năm 2025. Thứ Sáu, Ngày 14 tháng 3 năm 2025, Bắt đầu lúc 5:30pm chiều. Tại Phòng Hội Đồng Quản Trị, Trung Tâm Chính Quyền Quận Hạt, 70 West Hedding Street, San José, CA 95110.

Hãy cùng chúng tôi tham gia chương trình đặc biệt này. Sẽ có địa chỉ trang mạng để xem trực tiếp. Xin bấm vào [\[LINK\]](#) này để biết thêm thông tin. Xin cảm ơn.

**2025 年縣情咨文特別邀請**

聖塔克拉拉縣縣政委員會主席李洲曉將於2025 年 3 月 14 日 (星期五) 發表 2025 年縣情咨文 活動時間於下午5:30 開始 活動地點位於縣政府大樓一樓的縣政委員會會議廳, 70 West Hedding Street, San José, CA 95110.

誠摯邀請您參加此特別活動 活動當天提供線上直播 點擊鏈結了解更多信息, 謝謝

Video



At the January 14, 2025 Board of Supervisors meeting, my colleagues elected me as President of the Board. It's an honor to serve in this role. Watch the video of my opening comments as incoming Board President [[LINK](#)]. Thank you.

Warm regards,



**Supervisor Otto Lee**

Santa Clara County, District 3

[SupervisorLee.org](http://SupervisorLee.org)

[Supervisor.Lee@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:Supervisor.Lee@bos.sccgov.org)

*P.S. - Two Key Updates*

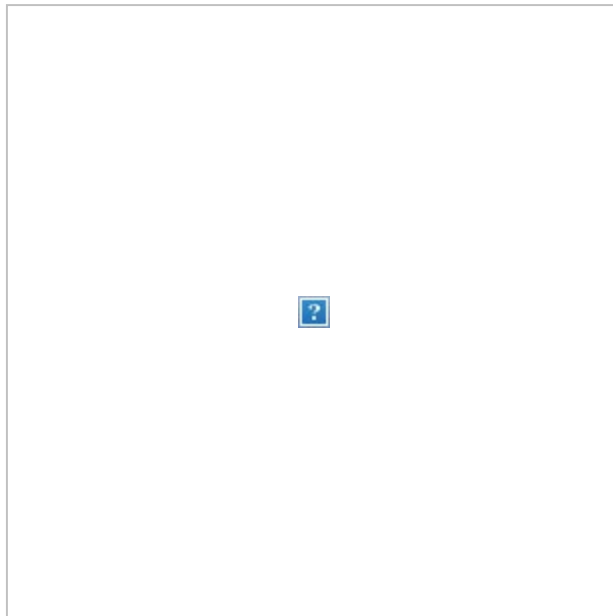
**Point In Time Count 2025 [[LINK](#)]**

The [PIT Count](#), also known as the Santa Clara

County Homeless Census and Survey, will take place on the mornings of Wednesday, Jan. 22, and Thursday, Jan. 23. - Several members of the D3 Team will be joining the count. [Click HERE to learn more about the PIT Count.](#)

**LA Fires - Ways To Help [\[LINK\]](#)**

Our hearts remain with our families and neighbors in Los Angeles. We also must stay prepared locally. Follow link for [Ways To Help](#) and to keep your family and home prepared in case of an emergency. [LINK](#) | [Español](#) | [中文](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [Tagalog](#)



70 West Hedding  
10th Floor  
San José, CA 95110  
(408) 299-5030  
[Email Supervisor Lee](#)  
[District 3 Website](#)



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**From:** [San Mateo County Transit District](#)  
**To:** [ParkRec Commission](#)  
**Subject:** See this past year's biggest TA accomplishments!  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 31, 2024 12:26:40 PM

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• 2024 Year in Review | [View online](#) •

## 2024 Year in Review

The San Mateo County Transportation Authority celebrated a banner year for innovation, equity and sustainable



transportation. Read our 2024 Year in [Review](#) to learn how the TA invested in local mobility improvements through responsible stewardship of Measure A and W sales tax dollars.

[See all of our top stories!](#)

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**Editor:** [Randol White](#)

[WhiteR@SamTrans.com](mailto:WhiteR@SamTrans.com)

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Our mailing address is:

1250 San Carlos Ave. San Carlos, CA 94070

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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)



**From:** [Robustelli, Sarah](#)  
**To:** [O'Kane, Kristen](#); [Castile, Steve](#); [Robustelli, Sarah](#); [Veenker, Vicki](#)  
**Cc:** [ParkRec Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Share Feedback on Adding a Restroom at Eleanor Pardee Park  
**Date:** Thursday, January 23, 2025 1:02:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

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Hello Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

Share your feedback on adding a **restroom to Eleanor Pardee Park**. This survey is live from January 13-February 13. Please send this out to your networks and neighbors.

[Share Feedback on Adding a Restroom at Eleanor Pardee Park](#)

[Share Feedback on Adding a Restroom at Eleanor Pardee Park – City of Palo Alto, CA](#)

The City's communications team is leading the following outreach.

- News story that links to existing pages on the city's website
- Share via OpenGov Open Town Hall email list
- Social media posts, including Nextdoor
- City Managers Comments, then blog post
- Uplift Local via City Manager Comments blog and one other time as standalone article
- Request for Council to share with their networks
- PAN outreach

There are also three signs posted in different areas of the Park.

Thank you for your help.

Sarah



**SARAH ROBUSTELLI**

Division Manager Open Space, Parks, and Golf  
Community Services Department  
(650) 617-3518 | [Sarah.Robustelli@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Sarah.Robustelli@CityofPaloAlto.org)  
[www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)



Please click here to provide feedback on our City's services



**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Ed Lauing](#); [Keith Reckdahl](#)  
**Cc:** [George for Palo Alto](#); [h.etzko@gmail.com](mailto:h.etzko@gmail.com); [Templeton, Cari](#); [Cribbs, Anne](#); [josh@joshsalcman.com](mailto:josh@joshsalcman.com); [kamhialison@gmail.com](mailto:kamhialison@gmail.com); [Rowena Chiu](#); [Lythcott-Haims, Julie](#); [Veenker, Vicki](#); [Burt, Patrick](#); [jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com](mailto:jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com); [EPA Today](#); [Diana Diamond](#); [Dave Price](#); [Emily Mibach](#); [Braden Cartwright](#); [cromero@cityofepa.org](mailto:cromero@cityofepa.org); [Raymond Goins](#); [Vara Ramakrishnan](#); [rabrica@cityofepa.org](mailto:rabrica@cityofepa.org); [WILPF Peninsula Palo Alto](#); [Supervisor Susan Ellenberg](#); [Supervisor Otto Lee](#); [district1@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:district1@bos.sccgov.org); [Jeff Conrad](#); [Jeff Hayden](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [Jay Boyarsky](#); [Friends of Cubberley](#); [Palo Alto Free Press](#); [Holman, Karen \(external\)](#); [Tom DuBois](#); [GRP-City Council](#); [Council, City](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [Perron, Zachary](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [Sean Allen](#); [dennis burns](#); [Don Austin](#); [Kaloma Smith](#); [Sarah Wright](#); [Gennady Sheyner](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Lewis James](#); [Cecilia Taylor](#); [The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan](#); [Wagner, April](#); [Afanasiev, Alex](#); [Enberg, Nicholas](#); [Nicole Chiu-Wang](#); [Freddie.Quintana@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Freddie.Quintana@sen.ca.gov); [DuJuan Green](#); [Dennis Upton](#); [Human Relations Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Tens of thousands of people have gathered on Istanbul's Galata Bridge on New Year's Day to express solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 1, 2025 12:58:38 PM

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# Tens of thousands of people in Istanbul protest Gaza war

Tens of thousands of people have gathered on Istanbul's Galata Bridge on New Year's Day to express solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza

Source: ABC News

Tens of thousands of people in Istanbul protest Gaza war - ABC News

<https://search.app/XAzSdqnuWLnryuCG8>

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [h.etzko@gmail.com](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Lythcott-Haims, Julie](#); [josh@joshsalcman.com](#); [Zelkha, Mila](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [kamhialison@gmail.com](#); [Rowena Chiu](#); [Sean Allen](#); [Raymond Goins](#); [Council, City](#); [BoardOperations](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Mickie Winkler](#); [John Burt](#); [Marty Wasserman](#); [dennis burns](#); [citycouncil@mountainview.gov](#); [jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com](#); [GRP-City Council](#); [Patricia.Guerrero@jud.ca.gov](#); [EPA Today](#); [Diana Diamond](#); [Dave Price](#); [Nicole Chiu-Wang](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Barberini, Christopher](#); [Gerry Gras](#); [Anna Griffin](#); [Cribbs, Anne](#); [cromero@cityofepa.org](#); [rabrica@cityofepa.org](#); [Vara Ramakrishnan](#); [Braden Cartwright](#); [editor@paweeekly.com](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Palo Alto Free Press](#); [George for Palo Alto](#); [Keith Reckdahl](#); [Don Austin](#); [Yolanda Conaway](#); [Daniel Kottke](#); [Damon Silver](#); [Vicki Veenker](#); [Dana St. George](#); [Freddie.Quintana@sen.ca.gov](#); [frances.Rothschild@jud.ca.gov](#); [Cait James](#); [Marina Lopez](#)  
**Subject:** This is a fragile ceasefire. We must ensure it holds.  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2025 12:50:52 PM

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This is a fragile ceasefire. We must ensure it holds.

*[Read and share the full Wire on our website.](#)*

**This is a fragile ceasefire. We must ensure it holds.**



For 15 months Israel and the U.S. have tried to erase the Palestinian people. They have failed because of Palestinian *sumud* — "steadfastness" or "perseverance" — and because the global movement for Palestinian freedom didn't let them.

Our most urgent task is to ensure this ceasefire holds.

On Wednesday, following the announcement of a ceasefire agreement, Palestinians in Gaza filled the streets in celebration and relief. This ceasefire could save countless lives. But we know that this moment is fragile, and if left to the Israeli and US governments, it will not hold...



5 minute read

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## Tell the CU Board of Regents: Stop weaponizing Jewish pain.



The University of Colorado Board of Regents passed a shameful motion last June that inaccurately describes the Arabic word “intifada” as a call for “violence and murder against the Jewish people.”

Email the University of Colorado Board of Regents now and tell them:  
Immediately rescind the motion passed in June, and stop weaponizing Jewish

pain to silence pro-Palestine speech on campus.

[Email now](#)

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## We're still fighting for Gaza.



Every weekday, JVP members and supporters come together for a Gaza Power Hour, grounding in the political moment and taking direct action.

Join a special power half-hour on Tuesday, where JVP Executive Director and a Palestinian partner will discuss the the ceasefire, on the first day of Trumps new term.

[Register now](#)

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## I'm a Jewish elected official. Here's why I divested our county from Caterpillar



The Alameda County treasurer explains why he divested \$32 million from Caterpillar — after he took a class with the Bay Area JVP.

[Read more](#)

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Jewish Voice for Peace  
P.O. Box 589  
Berkeley, CA 94701

## United States

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**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [h.etzko@gmail.com](#); [Dave Price](#); [jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com](#); [EPA Today](#); [Diana Diamond](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Keith Reckdahl](#); [George for Palo Alto](#); [kamhialison@gmail.com](#); [josh@joshsalcman.com](#); [Rowena Chiu](#); [Emily Mibach](#); [Cait James](#); [Marina Lopez](#); [Council, City](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Friends of Cubberley](#); [Jack Ajluni](#); [Salem Ajluni](#); [Sean Allen](#); [Raymond Goins](#); [Vara Ramakrishnan](#); [Cribbs, Anne](#); [Templeton, Cari](#); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [Wagner, April](#); [cromero@cityofepa.org](#); [Lee, Craig](#); [Enberg, Nicholas](#); [Burt, Patrick](#); [Patricia.Guerrero@jud.ca.gov](#); [frances.Rothschild@jud.ca.gov](#); [WILPF Peninsula Palo Alto](#); [Freddie.Quintana@sen.ca.gov](#); [Kaloma Smith](#); [Palo Alto Free Press](#); [Tom DuBois](#); [Cecilia Taylor](#); [Holman, Karen \(external\)](#); [Bill Newell](#); [dennis burns](#); [DuJuan Green](#)  
**Subject:** VIDEO: Will There Be a Gaza Deal Before Trump's Inauguration?  
**Date:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 10:01:47 AM

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# VIDEO: Will There Be a Gaza Deal Before Trump's Inauguration?

Palestinian journalist Muhammad Shehada and Jeremy Scahill break down what is being negotiated and how the Biden administration enabled Netanyahu's campaign of sabotage

JEREMY SCAHILL

JAN 9



Israel's genocidal war against the Palestinians of Gaza has now entered its sixteenth month. Despite the fact that outgoing President Joe Biden has been telling the public since May that a ceasefire was on the horizon, he and his administration have enabled a sustained campaign of diplomatic sabotage by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Israel has continued its intense bombing attacks against the Gaza Strip and the civilian death toll has soared. By the most conservative estimates available—those provided by the health authorities in Gaza—more than 46,000 Palestinians have been confirmed dead, almost 18,000 of them children. Some 1,600 Palestinian families have been entirely erased from existence. Israel has laid siege to the few remaining hospitals in the strip, repeatedly attacked camps for internally displaced people, and has overseen a blockade of basic food and goods into large parts of Gaza. Children have frozen to death, and diseases, including hepatitis, have spread. Netanyahu and his inner circle have vowed to continue the war until they achieve what they have described as total victory and there are indications that Israel intends to annex at least parts of the Gaza Strip. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has spent months gaslighting the public, casting blame exclusively on Hamas for failing to agree to an exchange of prisoners and a cessation of the war.

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After his victory in the 2024 election, Donald Trump made clear that he wants a deal to release Israeli and international captives held in Gaza prior to his inauguration on January 20. Trump's public posture has added urgency to what had become a diplomatic process surviving on the weakest of life support systems. The president-elect's position on the Gaza war is largely in sync with that of Biden's; Trump's nominees for key national security positions and U.S. ambassador to Israel are a kettle of pro-Israel hawks, some of whom have openly declared there is no such thing as a Palestinian and no such place as the West Bank. At the same time, Trump clearly wants to proclaim a victory by securing the release of hostages as he resumes office in Washington, D.C.

Hamas agreed to a proposal endorsed by President Biden in May, but Netanyahu destroyed it by adding new demands after the framework was finalized. Drop Site News [reviewed](#) internal documents from the negotiations showing that on July 2 Hamas formally informed international mediators that it had accepted the framework, which Hamas said it was told had been amended by the U.S. and approved by Israel on June 24. Israel then proceeded to go on an assassination spree in the region, including killing Hamas's political leader and top negotiator Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, effectively ending the diplomatic process.

Since Trump's election in November, Hamas has directed its public statements not at Biden but at Trump. On Wednesday, a senior Hamas official told me, "We believe we can reach an agreement immediately if Netanyahu and his government stop their stalling and obstructing the deal." He added, "We look forward to President Trump and his team exerting pressure on Netanyahu and his government to move forward with the deal before his inauguration." Since Trump's victory, international mediators from Egypt and Qatar have been meeting with Hamas, U.S., and Israeli officials and mediators have slowly projected a sense of cautious optimism that some form of an agreement was achievable.

By all accounts, the deal currently being discussed is almost identical to the [framework Hamas agreed to last summer](#). The plan has three phases, the first of

which would include the release of a category of captives held in Gaza designated as “humanitarian”—children, women, the elderly, and the sick—in exchange for Palestinians held in Israeli jails and prisons. The next two phases envision an exchange of more captives, including Israeli soldiers and high-value Palestinian political prisoners held by Israel, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, an official end to the war, and a multiyear plan for reconstruction.

While Israeli negotiators have engaged in these discussions and may sign a deal, Netanyahu has made clear he wants to ensure that Israel can resume its full military assault whenever it decides to do so. Prominent Israeli politicians continue to agitate for an indefinite occupation of Gaza as well as the building of settlements, sentiments that will hover over any purported deal. Hamas insists that any deal must include a clear path to an eventual full withdrawal of Israeli forces. Trump has threatened that “all hell will break out in the Middle East” if the captives held by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip are not returned before he is sworn in.

This morning, I spoke to Muhammad Shehada, a Palestinian [writer and journalist](#) from Gaza who has been doing in-depth reporting on the negotiations for a ceasefire and exchange of captives. His most recent piece for the Center for International Policy is titled “[The Biden Administration’s False History of Ceasefire Negotiations](#).”

*Our investigative journalism has never been more vital. As mainstream media focuses on the political theater of the day, Drop Site is committed to rigorous reporting on the forces shaping U.S. foreign policy. We've broken major stories on the Gaza negotiations—and in 2025, our role becomes even more crucial. We'll continue our deep reporting on the tension between Trump's campaign promises and the militaristic wing of the GOP, providing essential coverage that key anti-war factions within Trump's orbit rely on.*

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**From:** [Isabella Lee](#)  
**To:** [ParkRec Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Volunteer Events hosted by POST - Upcoming 2025 Volunteer Events  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 22, 2025 3:23:48 PM

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Dear Families and Friends of the Palo Alto Department of Parks & Rec,

My name is Isabella Lee, and I'm the Community Engagement Intern for [Peninsula Open Space Trust \(POST\)](#). I'm reaching out today to invite you, your friends, and families to join us for our upcoming [Volunteer Events](#) across the South Bay and Peninsula, where you can help protect and restore our beautiful natural spaces!

As we enter the new year, it's important to seize the season by planting natives and tackling weeds early. Join POST and our partners for a series of volunteer events to care for and enhance our local public open spaces! These hands-on activities are a fantastic way to give back to the environment. No experience is necessary—just a passion for the outdoors and a willingness to learn. Please be aware of the rules regarding minor participation and adult supervision at each event.

**Upcoming volunteer opportunities include:**

- 1/25 [Ravenswood Preserve Workday](#) – Help Support biodiversity in East Palo Alto!
- 2/1 [Bair Island Workday](#) – Plant native plants to help local wetland restoration.
- 2/9 [Bioblitz at Hellyer Park](#) – Help find and identify as many species as you can, with assistance from experienced naturalists!

Participants will learn about native plants and other local species while gaining hands-on experience in habitat restoration and methods to support biodiversity. Come make a difference with POST and our amazing partners at [Grassroots Ecology](#), [San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory](#), and [Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful](#).

[Register now to secure your spot](#) and discover more about local restoration with your friends and families at our upcoming volunteer events!

**I included a printable flyer both in color and in black and white. Please print it out**



**and post it to your local bulletin board, or forward this to any other listservs that might be interested in these events.** This flyer will be good even beyond February, as we host similar volunteer opportunities year-round!

Thanks, and please reach out with any questions.

Isabella Lee

Community Engagement Intern

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Ed Lauing](#); [Keith Reckdahl](#); [George for Palo Alto](#); [Council, City](#); [Cribbs, Anne](#); [Templeton, Cari](#); [planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [jgreen@dailynewsgroup.com](#); [Wagner, April](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [Supervisor Susan Ellenberg](#); [DuJuan Green](#); [Supervisor Otto Lee](#); [Vicki Veenker](#); [GRP-City Council](#); [josh@joshsalcman.com](#); [Lotus Fong](#)  
**Cc:** [Cait James](#); [Marina Lopez](#); [The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Stump, Molly](#); [citycouncil@mountainview.gov](#); [Diana Diamond](#)  
**Subject:** Will you donate \$10 to expose Israel's genocide in Gaza?  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 3:05:07 PM

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Aram—

Last Saturday, with just 16 days left in office, President Joe Biden approved one last \$8 billion weapons sale to Israel — despite mounting evidence of war crimes, hospitals and refugee camps bombed, journalists targeted for assassination, and more than 45,000 people killed.

The inhumanity is chilling. And yet most major U.S.-based news outlets barely took note, too consumed by the Donald Trump show to cover the ongoing U.S.-funded slaughter in Gaza.

From the beginning, The Intercept has worked to expose Israel's war crimes, and we won't stop reporting as long as the occupation goes on. But this reporting simply could not happen without the financial support of members like you.

[Will you make a donation to help support The Intercept's ongoing reporting on Israel's war on Gaza?](#)

*If you've saved your payment information with ActBlue Express, your donation will go through immediately:*

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Shortly after the beginning of Israel's war on Gaza, major news outlets like The Associated Press, MSNBC, and the New York Times fired, canceled, or sidelined reporters who dared to question Israel's conduct of the war or U.S. complicity in the slaughter.

**The Intercept charted a different course**, partnering with freelance journalists on the ground to expose war crimes that Israel and its backers in the U.S. government would rather sweep under the rug.

We've called out phony spin from the Biden administration and Republicans alike, refusing to acquiesce to the pro-Israel propaganda routinely parroted by other news outlets.

And we've investigated the massive amounts of money that the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and other pro-Israel lobby groups have spent to silence the few members of Congress who have opposed continued U.S. support for the siege of Gaza.

**To keep providing this kind of hard-hitting investigative reporting, we are counting on members like you.**

[That's why we're asking you today: Will you make a donation of \\$10 to The Intercept?](#)

**[STAND WITH THE INTERCEPT →](#)**



Thank you,

The Intercept team

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